

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 OIC-02

/139 W

-----023778 121800Z /40

P R 121715Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9084

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USMTN

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN,IETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: TARIFFS GROUP: 7 PLUS 7 MEETING JULY 12

1. IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM A FEW LDCS, AND DESPITE GENERAL FEELING OF DCS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL PATTERSON (WHO CHAIRS MTN TARIFFS GROUP) CALLED MEETING OF 7 PLUS 7 MORNING OF JULY 12 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE MEETING OF MTN TARIFFS GROUP BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS. SOME LDCS AHD HOPED TO USE 7 PLUS 7 MEETING TO GET AGREEMENT ON JULY MEETING OF TARIFFS GROUP TO DETERMINE STATE OF PLAY IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AMONG DCS ON TARIFF NEGOTIATING PLAN AND TO PRESS DCS TO GET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATIONS MOVING AGAIN IN THE TARIFFS AREA, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATED TO SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR LDCS.

2. U.S. (CULBERT) STATED THAT ITS VIEWS HAD NOT CHANGED (TARIFFS GROUP SHOULD MEET ONLY AFTER PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED IN BILATERALS AMONG KEY COUNTRIES) AND

CONFIRMED EARLY PRESS REPORTS OF SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS ON MTN THE DAY BEFORE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND EC COMMISSION. U.S. NOTED THAT HEAVY SCHEDULE OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NOW AND EARLY FALL INCLUDED A LARGE NUMBER OF LDCS. ONLY EGYPT AND MEXICO CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR TARIFFS GROUP MEETING BEFORE SUMMER RECESS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT AGREEMENT AMONG KEY COUNTRIES WITHOUT LDC PARTICIPATION. OTHER LDCS WHO SPOKE (PAKISTAN, NIGERIA AND JAMAICA) SAID IT IMPORTANT THAT MAJOR COUNTRIES PREPARE THE GROUNDWORK FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION AND THOUGH A TARIFFS GROUP MEETING IN JULY MIGHT INTERFERE WITH PROGRESS IN THAT AREA. CANADA AND MORDICS ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT A JULY MEETING WOULD NOT BE USEFUL. JAPAN WAS SILENT.

3. PATTERSON CONCLUDED MEETING BY NOTING THAT CLEAR MAJORITY FELT JULY MEETING WOULD BE PREMATURE AND NOT HELPFUL, BUT IN LIGHT OF PROGRESS BEING MADE IN BILATERALS AMONG KEY COUNTRIES, IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT A MEETING EARLY IN THE FALL MIGHT BE USEFUL. HE NOTED LEGITIMATE CONCERN OF LDCS THAT THEIR INTERESTS MIGHT BE IGNORED IN DC INFORMAL AGREEMENTS AND REMINDED THE OTHER DCs OF NEED TO CONSULT WITH LDCS AS NEGOTIATIONS AMONG KEY COUNTRIES PROCEED. MCNAMARA

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